



P.O. Box 405
Watertown, SD 57201
(605)882-2822

sdpjc@dailypost.com

April 30, 2001

Attention Ken Parr
US Bureau of Reclamation
Rapid City Field Office
fax (605)394-9346
email kparr@gp.usbr.gov

Dear Mr. Parr:

Please accept the following comment for the draft environmental impact study concerning contracts for water from the Angostura Dam impoundment.

To our organization, which has as part of its mission to act as a justice ally of tribal people in this region, the draft seems to lack due respect for their concerns and interests that might be affected by this federal action. [We see no acknowledgment, for instance, of the substantial and direct harm which Oglala Sioux Tribe has suffered during the history of the above-mentioned impoundment and water contracts previously issued.] [Where is there discussion of the historic negative impact to the tribe's riparian water rights?] [Where is there discussion of the negative impacts to tribal interest of the restriction of the flow of the Cheyenne River?] [We see no discussion of the negative effects on tribal interest due to diminished water quality and fisheries in the Cheyenne.] [What about the tribal interest in negative impacts to riparian vegetation?] [Where is there discussion of the rights of the tribe under the Fort Laramie Treaty,] a treaty which has never been legally extinguished by Congress? [Where is there discussion of a REALISTIC alternative to the current pattern of contracting, one which could begin to redress some of the historic harm to the tribe that has resulted from this project?]

We hope the final statement will contain credible treatment of all of the above issues.

Sincerely,
Jeanne Koster
Director

Jeanne Koster

1. In the "Social and Economic Conditions," "Indian Trust Assets," and "Cultural Resources" sections, the EIS examined current conditions and projected impacts of the alternatives on the Tribes. Reclamation's purpose, as stated on p. 2 of the EIS, is to analyze the impacts of renewing a long-term water service contract.

2. This matter is beyond the scope of the EIS.

3. The EIS concluded that the Angostura Unit is not causing significant adverse effects to water quality or to fisheries in the Cheyenne River.

4. General discussion of riparian vegetation is found in the "Stream Corridor" sections of the EIS. The OST focused on three culturally important plants discussed in the EIS on pp. 98-99 and p. 157.

5. Pages 9-10 and 97-100 of the EIS discuss the Ft. Laramie Treaty and its effects on the Tribes.

6. The Reestablishment of Natural Flows Below the Dam Alternative was developed in consultation with the OST.